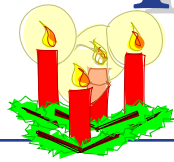


REFLECTIONS



December 2011

PASTOR AUGIE'S MESSAGE

Combating Consumerism

The Advent season is upon us! Is it just me, or did it get here fast? Even though we moved out of New York back in 1993, I still have a hard time realizing that Christmas is approaching while the weather outside is so nice. Thankfully in the Church we start marking the time until Christmas four weeks in advance with the season of Advent. Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” Each week in Advent we celebrate the coming of Christ to humanity as a baby born of a virgin, and we also celebrate His promise to come again.

But even if it weren't for the four colored candles on the Advent wreath, and the slow appearance of Christmas songs on the radio to give me advanced notice, I'd still have another way to know that Christmas was approaching. Do you know what that is? The approach of Christmas is *also* marked by the sale ads in the paper! Beginning with Black Friday (and now Cyber-Monday), shoppers have ample opportunity to purchase merchandise at the best prices of the year. Even if you weren't out looking for anything in particular, you are likely to buy *something* the week following Thanksgiving because the prices are good and the “deals” are in abundance! In fact, this year all previous Black Friday records were broken when shoppers spent a record \$52.4 Billion, as compared with \$45 Billion last year – that's a 16% increase! Merchandisers aren't celebrating yet, though, because Black Friday sales typically only account for 10% of holiday purchases. So while the children may be counting how many *days* remain until Santa comes, store

owners are counting how many *dollars* remain to be had before Christmas.

And you and I are not immune to this sickness. In fact, we often feed into it. Perhaps even unwittingly, we slowly and subtly have fanned the flame of consumerism. The more we shop, the more we buy (and the more we borrow *to* buy) the more that we feed the monster of materialism; a monster that can overshadow Christmas. Yes, we know Christmas is approaching, but really what we often hear is the stomp of the spending monster thumping down the road saying, “feed me!” ... or better, “BUY me!”

Why do we do it? Why do we give in? I would submit that it's ultimately for spiritual reasons. You see, we have a deep spiritual need for purpose and fulfillment. (We have just spent 2 months at Redeemer talking about our search for purpose and significance.) And every day advertisements tell us that we can find fulfillment and satisfaction in some sort of product – whether it's a television to provide entertainment, a car to provide adventure, a gadget to save time and money, or a sofa to give rest. Each of these products claims to have an answer to our need. And we believe them. After all, this is what we have been told will achieve for us the “perfect life.” The problem is that we can spend our lives pursuing this dream only to discover that the products fail to deliver. In fact, in a



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim Brunner, Council President



HAPPY NEW YEAR AS WE CELEBRATE THE ADVENT OF THE COMING OF OUR SAVIOR!

What wonderful opportunities we have to celebrate OUR CHURCH'S

NEW YEAR:

- We have three Wednesday Advent services that will prepare us for the Promised One
- We have a worship service series that will teach us "Why Jesus had to come"
- We have a family and traditional Christmas Eve Service to rejoice in Jesus birth and...
- We can help decorate the Church for our Christmas Festival Season on the 10th
- We have our annual Fellowship Progressive Dinner on the 10th
- We have a Children's Christmas Program on the 11th
- We have a very special Cantata put on by our Choir on the 18th and...
- We can individually give Thanks and Praise every day for the coming of Jesus through following our special Advent Devotions

So much for December opportunities, now for an update of ongoing activities.

LCEF LOAN RESTUCTURE PROCESS

On November 14, we signed a memorandum of agreement with LCEF on the structure of the loan. Currently we have 4 different loans between the Church and the Kindergarten/Preschool totaling approximately 9.8 Million dollars. These 4 loans will be consolidated into 2 separate loans for a three year period at which time they will be reviewed for either loan extension or restructure. The 1st will consist of at 6.1 Million dollar loan which will be serviced with principle and interest at 4.75% and the 2nd loan for approximately 3.7 Million dollars will be serviced with interest only at a 1% rate. The net impact on our current payment requirements will be an approximate increase of \$800 per month. The major benefit of this loan offering is that we will not be accruing any negative amortization on our loans but will be realizing a substantial growth in equity as we pay down the principle. Our next step in this process will be the receipt, review and approval of a letter from LCEF

defining the specific conditions of the loan which upon approval will result in the preparation and signing of the new loan package documents. We are anticipating completing all of these actions by the end of the year. We consider this arrangement to be a major step forward in our growth planning. May the Lord Bless our efforts and our Ministries as we seek to grow in His Kingdom and in our Service to glorify our Lord.

YOUTH ROOM COVERSION

This project continues to be a priority but has been stalled because of the need to address the sound attenuation problems not with just the Youth room but the remainder of the building as well. To express this problem most simply, we are finding that our entire building structure takes on the characteristics of a tuning fork with sounds vibrated through walls, floors and especially ventilation ducts. Because the solution to these problems involves dampening of the sounds through the duct work as well as application of sound insulation the ceilings and walls. These structural modifications need to be completed before undertaking the 'remodel' of the youth room. The Trustees have now been delegated to correct or reduce these sound transmission problems and are proceeding to schedule the necessary work.

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR GROWTH NEEDS

We have now entered into an agreement with the architectural firm Richard Yen & Assoc. (Preschool designer) to perform a feasibility study to provide concepts for additional fellowship space meeting/greeting worshippers on entry and fellowship space for after and between services. It is envisioned that this area would be a courtyard for fellowship on Sundays and a gathering place for preschool parents during the school week as well as for fellowship functions for the church on other occasions as well. This area would be located at the current church entry level between the church and the preschool.

The second phase of this study will be to define a building facility on the property between the church and the preschool that would be integral and accessible from the courtyard fellowship area. This building design is to include a multi-use fellowship hall with capacity for 250 along with additional class/meeting rooms and office space as projected. Another consideration for this

Continued on Page 7

EVANGELISM

Tom Burke, Evangelism Chair

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." Matthew 9:37 (NIV)

I recently attended a Mission U School of Witnessing Workshop presented by the Lutheran Hour Ministries. While waiting for the workshop to begin I overheard one person saying, "You have to get here early to get a seat in the back." They were right! The room started filling up from the back (sort of like Sunday services).



We learned that Christian witnessing means to speak from personal experience in order to introduce others to Jesus. It reminded me of the fifth purpose in Rick Warren's "The

Purpose Driven Life: You were made for mission. What is that mission? Introducing people to God!" We also learned the most effective way to witness is to make sure your witnessing is both personal and relational. It takes place when you listen. The bible says in James 1:19: "Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Remember, when you are witnessing to someone, you are talking with them not at them. If you listen to someone, you have a chance to give them feedback. You can ask questions like, "How's that working for you?" or "What makes you say that?"

I hope to share more of what I learned at Mission U next month. I would like to leave you with a statement that Pastor Augie made at the workshop: "Don't talk to a person about God until you talk to God about that person."

STEWARDSHIP

B. J. Lahr, Stewardship Chair

December marks the time when we celebrate the GIFT that God gave US - the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ, as you, your family and your friends celebrate, through prayer, and thank God for this wonderful Gift of Hope.



Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." 2 Corinthians 9:15

December, also, marks the END of one year and the BEGINNING of another year. As we approach the last few days of December, it will be time to identify our New Year's Resolutions. Hopefully, your Resolutions for 2012 will include:

1. Joining together to worship
2. Finding you mission at RBTS
3. Serving the Lord with your time, talents and resources.

Now that you have established your resolutions it is time to reflect ahead to the month of January.

January has been designated Stewardship Month. Stewardship Sunday will be January 22. More information will be forth coming regarding this special time at RBTS.

May peace and harmony grace your home and May the Blessing of this Christmas remain with each of you forever.

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Jo Voertman

LCEF is built around and for the Church; to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

If interested in investing in LCEF, contact your congregation representative, who is Jo Voertman, 760-721-6674, email, jvbythesea@cox.net, or contact Lutheran Church Extension Fund, 1-800-843-5233



Christmas Q & A

(excerpts from the LCMS 'Connections')

What does the word “Christmas” mean? The modern English word “Christmas” comes from *Christes maesse*, “Christ’s mass,” the Old English name for the worship service that commemorates Christ’s birth. Familiar names for Christmas from other languages, such as the Spanish *Navidad* and the French *Noel*, are derived from the Latin, *dies natalis*, “Day of the Birth,”



What are the origins of Santa Claus and the Christmas tree? Santa Claus is based on a Christian bishop of the fourth century, Nicholas of Myra, whose feast day occurs on December 6. Christmas trees seem to have originated in medieval Germany. These two are possibly the most popular and recognizable symbols of our society’s non-religious celebrations during Christmas.

Why does Christmas fall on December 25? Scripture does not record the exact date of Christ’s birth. However, ancient documents show that the Christian community in Rome began celebrating the Lord’s Nativity on December 25 starting around the year A.D. 336. No one knows for sure why the early Roman Christians chose December 25, but the most likely explanation is that they appropriated the already existing winter solstice festival honoring the pagan sun god, Mithras. This popular festival was known as *natalis solis invicti* or “Birth of the unconquered Sun.” According to this theory, Christian leaders in Rome chose December 25 to turn people away from the pagan unconquered sun and toward Jesus Christ, the Son of Righteousness. (See Malachi 4:2.)

What are the 12 days of Christmas? Christmas is not a celebration that lasts only a single day. Christmas is a season that begins on Christmas Eve and continues for 12 days.

What is the true meaning of Christmas? Christmas trees, Santa Claus, decorations, exchanging gifts and the many other seasonal traditions most of us observe are all great ways for family and friends to mark this time of year. What we must all take care to remember is that these customs, enjoyable as they are, ultimately have nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas. The true meaning of Christmas is found only in the message of the Gospel. Here it is, so beautifully encapsulated:



John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”



Who were the Magi? The Magi were members of the religious hierarchy of ancient Persia and Media. According to ancient documents, these men were scholars of astrology, mathematics and the interpretation of dreams. Their expertise in these esoteric subjects is the reason they were often referred to as “wise men.” The Magi of Babylonia were undoubtedly acquainted with Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Christ, including the “messianic star.” (See Numbers 24:17.)

Other Sunday School Business

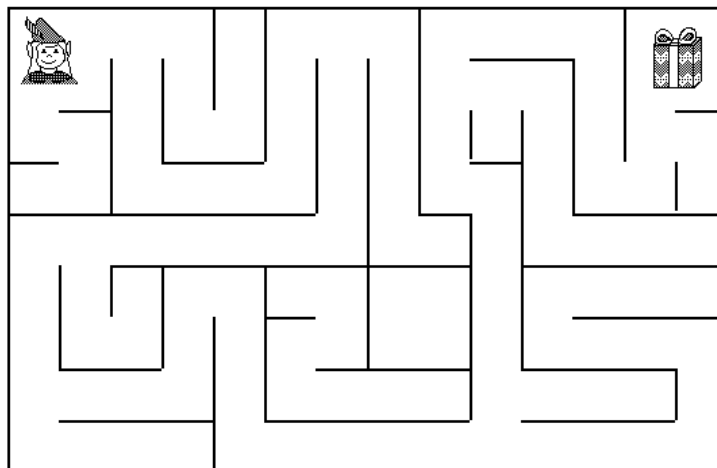
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11



Our annual children’s Christmas play is one of the times the children play an active role in the operation of the church and it helps development of our church family. We are also blessed with dedicated Sunday School teachers who reinforce that feeling as they work with the children on their parts, or with practicing the songs. They are an important part of His birthday celebration and we want them to know that.

FOR THE KIDS

Help the Elf find his gift



WOMEN'S MINISTRY ~ LWML

Norma Russell, President



WOMEN'S MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

Tuesday, December 13th, 6 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall will be our Christmas Party! A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex for the food item you wish to bring. Secret Sisters will be revealed and a gift exchange. If you do not have a Secret Sister but wish to exchange a gift with someone just bring a wrapped gift to place under the tree. This is purely optional. It is always a lovely festive evening of love & fellowship and to help get us into the Christmas mood. Also a chance for those "working people" or those not active throughout the year who cannot attend our day meetings to share the evening with us. We look forward to seeing everyone

Be sure to pick up an «Angel» from the angel tree. These gifts from the angel tree donations will provide gifts for children of our servicemen. When you select an angel, please sign out for it. The gift is to be \$25, wrapped with the angel securely attached to the present and should be returned by Wednesday, December 15.



PRICELESS INNOCENCE!

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Tommy standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good Morning Tommy."

"Good Morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?"

The pastor said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally little Tommy's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked,

"Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:30?"

FELLOWSHIP

Barbara Gehring, Chair



CHRISTMAS PROGRESSIVE DINNER
SATURDAY DEC 10TH 5:30PM

Sign up to Attend
All are welcome!



Sandwiches, heavy appetizers & wine

At Barbara & Carl Gehrings home

Dessert, coffee & Christmas caroling

At Pastor Augie & Rachelle Iadiciclos home

There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex
for RSVP's for bringing an appetizer or dessert
Child care will be available at the church.



Have A Blessed
Christmas Season
and a
Happy New Year

CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

Gary Wilson, Director

We invite you to attend our Christmas Cantata “ The Night Before Christmas “ created by Joel Lindsey, Twila La-Bar, & J. Daniel Smith. This contemporary work written in 2010, is delightful gospel collection of beautifully contemporary melodies, intertwined with familiar carols.

Please join us on Sunday, December 18, at 4:00pm in the sanctuary. Invite your family, neighbors, and friends to join you for a wonderful Christmas celebration through beautiful music. Our Cantata will feature soloists, Buck Lehmann, Kathy Esqueda, and Cindy Um, Instrumentalists include Heeya Huang on piano, John Clauter on drums, The Chancel Choir, Korean Choir, and narrator, Carl Ghiering, under the direction of Gary Wilson. Our

musicians can't wait to share beautiful Christmas music throughout the Holiday Season with the Redeemer congregation. Our Cantata will be a special experience for all who attend. You won't want to wish this exceptional contemporary work.



CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Kathy Esqueda

FREE GUITAR LESSONS!!!
Beginning and intermediate students ages 9-18 are welcome every Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm...

Contact Kathy at ksmesqueda@roadrunner.com for more information or just come by to view a class.



RUSS HANTHORN Choir Member of the Month

Russ was as born in Toledo, OH on June 19, 1935. He moved to Monroe, MI in seventh grade and graduated from Monroe High School in 1953 and earned a NROTC scholarship to Ohio State University. Russ majored in Industrial Engineering (5 year course) and graduated in June 1958. He was commissioned a 2dLt in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Russ has 3 sons and 2 grandsons (first marriage). Suzanne has 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

After nine years on active duty Russ spent next seven years in the Marine Corps Reserve program. He returned to active duty and remained on active duty until he retired from the Corps in 1988. In all he had a 30 year career (23 active and 7 in reserve).

After retirement Russ spent nine years as the senior instructor in two separate Junior ROTC programs in Sweetwater High School Distric, first five years as senior instructor of navy Junior ROTC unit at Mar Vista High School, Imperial Beach. Then he started a new Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at Sweetwater H.S. in National City.

In 1999 Russ “retired” from teaching and started a small embroidery company in Carlsbad. After three years it was time to “grow” the business. I decided I wasn't interested in doing that so I sold it instead. After I sold the embroidery company Suzanne and Russ began travelling on occasion and continue to enjoy their time together in this way up to and including the present time.

During the seven year period Russ was off of active duty, he worked for Armstrong Cork Co as an Industrial Engineer in three different cities. In 1973, while working for Armstrong in Dalton, GA the Lord led Russ into youth work.

Choir Member of the Month

Continued

He became the Resident Director for the Georgia Sheriffs Cherokee Estate in Dalton, a youth home for dependent, neglected, deprived children. For the next three years he was the legal guardian for 36 boys and girls. During that period he attended the University of Georgia and earned a MEd with an emphasis on Rehabilitation Counseling. he needed this background to better understand and work with and counsel his 36 children ([plus my own three).

One of our most memorable trips was going to Malawi, E. Africa for three weeks with ten other Rotarians from my Rotary District (63 clubs in S.D. & Imperial Counties). We delivered 2000 wheelchairs to the poorest of the poor. On our last delivery day we were in a very small infirmary out on the "hustings" and a woman crawled into our delivery area. She told us the Lord has told her to come by as He had a gift for her. She actually received the last wheelchair we had brought along.

In Rotary Russ has also led a group of four educators (four ladies, all bilingual teaching elementary, middle and high school) to the country of Ecuador for one month on a program known as Group Study Exchange. They toured the country staying in the homes of Rotarians in various towns where the teachers had an opportunity to experience the education in Ecuador, share their experiences of teaching on our country, enjoy the cultural experience and visit a number of Rotary clubs.

One other area within Rotary Russ has enjoyed is being the Chair of the Youth Exchange Committee for the district for three years. During that time it was his responsibility to coordinate a number of year long exchanges, both inbound and outbound, of students between 14-17 to other countries. Suzanne and Russ hosted a student from Germany during that period and to this day remain in contact with him and his family. In fact, he and his girl friend met us the Hanthorns in England last summer and spent a couple of days with them on a narrowboat trip through the England countryside.

Russ was the president of his club, Rotary Club of Carlsbad, in 1989. In that capacity Suzanne and he attended the Rotary International Convention that year in Seoul, Korea. They followed on with a visit to China. They were in Tiananmen Square visiting with the crowd three nights before the tanks came into the square. They had just arrived back home and saw it unfold on TV.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(Continued)*

building would be to provide the capability to conduct Contemporary Services on Sunday mornings as well as accommodate congregational gatherings. The underlying purpose of this study is to develop the vision to be prepared to serve the 500 by 500 worshippers by the year 2017, the 500th year of the Reformation.

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED FOR JANUARY?

- A congregation leadership workshop to review and update our Ministry Development Plan on Saturday, January 14th...open to all but attendance requested for the Ministry Leadership.
- A series of Estate Planning and the Church designed for both financial planning in today's world and also to hear and learn how to include the church into your end of life planning. More to be defined later.

Don't forget the Voter's Assembly meeting at noon December 11. We will be asking for Voter's approval for the loan restructure, we will be voting on a slate of Ministry Chairs, Elders and Officers for the calendar year 2012.

In addition we will be asking for approval of nominations for District President, Zone Vice Presidents and Circuit Counselor for our circuit.

Now may the Joy in our hearts grow as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of the our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and may we be empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread that good news to our families, to our communities, to our country and to the world that needs that message so badly.

...Joy to the World, the Lord has come!



He has been an Elder for one year, Church Council President for three years, followed by one year as the Council VP. Russ says he began singing in the choir about 2003 when he joined the church. He has also served on a number of adhoc committees.

The Hanthorns thoroughly enjoy the fellowship and genuine love they have found in our congregation and the choir. They thank the Lord daily for leading us to RBTS.

Russ says that life continues to be most fulfilling and he is blessed to have a wonderful wife by his side.

Women's Bible Study

Evelyn Meyers

Brand New!! Please join us for this 8 week study

"JAMES MERCY TRIUMPHS"

Mondays January 23-March 12

Fellowship Hall 9:15-11:30 am

Free Child Care on Mondays-Member Book \$18

Wednesdays January 25-March 14

Evelyn Myer's Home

contact: Evelyn @lylemeyer@roadrunner.com



PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

James, Jesus' own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple with Beth Moore's study James: Mercy Triumphs. Once you get to know both the man and the Book of James, you'll never be the same again.

Bible scholars compare James to the prophet Amos. In other ways, James more closely resembles the Book of Proverbs than any New Testament book. James is a book with many topics -- social justice, joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single-mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility, and prayer -- all of which are covered in this study.

(8 video sessions with 7 weeks of print study)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beth Moore has written best-selling Bible studies on the Patriarchs, Esther Moses, Paul, Isaiah, Daniel, John, David, and Jesus. Beth's ministry is grounded in and fueled by her service at her home fellowship, First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. Beth believes that her calling is Bible literacy: guiding believers to love and live God's Word. Beth has a passion for Christ, a passion for Bible study and a passion to see Christians living the lives Christ intended.

Beth loves the Lord, loves to laugh, and loves to be with His people. Her life is full of activity, but one commitment remains constant: Counting all things but loss for the excellence of knowing Christ Jesus, the Lord (*see Phil 3:8*).

Level of Participation for Bible Series

Beth Moore recommends there are five levels of participation in the new Bible Series.

Level 1- Participating in the video sessions only (8

Level 2 - Participating in the video session and doing the homework

Level 3 - Participating in the video session, homework, and handwriting the Book of James

Level 4 - Participating in the video session, homework, handwriting and reading The Next Level with Melissa

Level 5 - All the above and memorizing the book of James

Which level seems the doable for you right now? 1 2 3 4 5
Do only what Blesses and now what burdens!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL NEWS

Cindy Brown, Director



We will have five Christmas performances this year. Our four year olds and Bonus classes will perform Wednesday, December 21 at 10:00am for AM 4's classes and

1:30 for PM 4's classes and Bonus.

Our Kindergarten program and three year olds will perform on Thursday, December 22 at 10:00am for AM 3's classes, 11:00am for Kindergarten and 1:30pm for the PM 3's class.

All performances will be held in the church sanctuary.

The children are so eager and excited about the Christmas performances. They come dressed in their "Sunday Best" and always give an outstanding performance. Be sure to get here early!

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas!



"For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV).



Mark Your Calendars

- Friday, December 2: Kindergarten Drama Performance at 3:15pm
- Wednesday & Thursday, December 21 & 22: Christmas Programs at 10:00am for AM classes and 1:30pm for PM classes and Bonus. Kindergarten performance is at 11:00am on Friday, December 22.
- Friday, December 23 through Friday, January 6: Christmas Vacation, SCHOOL CLOSED

FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Bobbie Ankenbrandt

This is the second year our kindergarteners have taken their "Pennies for Change" program to the San Diego Food Bank. They raised \$600.00 and took along 50 backpacks filled with food for needy families. WOW!

Congratulations, Miss Cindy, and to all the staff and students a RBTS Lutheran School (past and present)



We continue receiving compliments from local elementary schools about our Redeemer graduates. The latest came from Aviara Oaks about the recipients of their Academic Excellence Award, (from left to right), Jessica Laws, Sophia Han, and Kaitlyn Jensen. It is gratifying to hear from other educators that Redeemer sends their students to them well prepared!



THANK YOU

from the Burkes!

Since the article about little Amelia appeared in the October newsletter we have been overwhelmed with love and support from our church family (and even from perfect strangers who have heard Amelia's story). You have no idea what this means to all of us. Since a third of the funds had to be in hand to schedule a surgery date with the clinic in Italy we had to wait to reach that goal. (They will allow us to make two further payments after the operation has been completed.) Due to some very generous friends our first goal was reached and we now have a date in February. Amelia and her parents have to be in Verona on February 2, 2012, for pre-surgery testing and if all goes well the surgery will happen on the February 7. We are very excited and scared at the same time. This sort of thing really makes you realize how much we need to Lord's help and blessing.



While all the adults in our family are busy trying to make all the necessary arrangements for the trip and a lengthy stay in Italy Amelia is blissfully unaware of all the stress and is acting like a normal 2-year-old. She copies everything we do and is getting

better at sign language every day. She now uses signs spontaneously to make her needs known and she also lets us know what she does not want to do. Did I mention she is two?

In January Amelia will be one of the recipients of the Mitchell Thorp Walk-A-Thon which will take place at Poinsettia Park in Carlsbad. Please be on the look-out for more information about this wonderful event to help families in need of financial help with medical costs for their special-needs children. And please continue to pray for our little granddaughter and the success of her surgery.



MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES DECEMBER

Men's Bible Study

Every Monday morning for breakfast
7:00 am at Coco's Restaurant
605 W. Vista Way, Vista (at Melrose)
Teacher: Don Howard.

Monday Bible Study

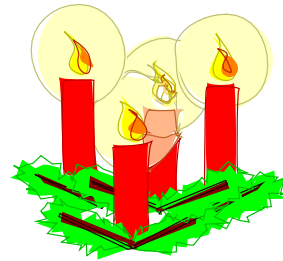
In January we will be studying Beth Moore's *James Mercy Triumphs*. See further information on Page 8. Sign-up now. Books \$18.00
9:15 am to 11:30 am
Church Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday December 6 and 20 at 1:00 pm
Book of 1 Corinthians.
Buck & Alice's Lehman's home.
Teacher: Alice Lehmann. 760-941-1197

Neighborhood Bible Study

In January we will be studying Beth Moore's *James Mercy Triumphs*. See further information on Page 8. Sign-up now. Books \$18.00
9:00 am to 11:30 am
Evelyn Meyer's home.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASSES

Bible Study

Fellowship Hall
9:45 am

For more details on the above Bible Studies, or if you need information on starting one, call the Church Office 431-8990.



December Birthdays



12/01 Marvin Suhr	12/18 Eileen Erickson
12/02 Paola Kunkel	12/19 Matthew Burger
12/03 Samuel Russell	12/19 Robert McDonald
12/04 Suzanne Hughes	12/22 Kellie Granito
12/05 Tom Shanahan	12/22 Jo Voertman
12/09 Ralph Krogfoss	12/24 Monique Russell
12/14 Rachel McFeaters	12/29 Burl Jordan
12/15 Chuck Denton	12/30 Norma Russell
12/17 Cathy Esqueda	12/31 Frank Wallner
12/17 Carole Gomez	12/31 Kelly Sundstrom

Anniversaries

12/10/76 Russ & Eileen Erickson	12/22/71 Greg & Jan Bishop
12/16/00 Justin & Heather Finke	12/31/55 Buck & Alice Lehmann
12/21/68 Robert & Kathy Seeman	

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Birthday Celebrants is a purely fellowship organization. Membership requires having a birthday in any given month and we join for lunch once a month to celebrate with those celebrating in that month.



Through the years we have made contributions to Concordia University – Irvine, Thrivent Builds – Habitat for Humanity, Birth Choice, Wounded Warriors, the American Cancer Society, Lutheran Bible Translators, Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, Women’s Resource Center, Bethesda Lutheran Home and other worthwhile charities.

Watch this space for information about our next lunch which will be in January and combine the December and January birthday celebrants.

Everyone is welcome to join us but reservations are needed. To make yours, or to find out more about our group, call Jo Voertman, 1-760-721-6674, jvbythesea@cox.net.

How do you say “Merry Christmas” around the World?

- Joyeux Noel -- French
- Nadolig Llawen -- Welsh
- Buon Natale -- Italian
- Kala Christouyenna! -- Greek
- Nollaig Shona Dhuit -- Gaelic/Irish
- God Jul -- Swedish
- Feliz Navidad -- Spanish
- Sung Tan Chuk Ha -- Korean
- Frohliche Weihnachten -- German
- Hyvaa Joulua -- Finnish
- Kurisumasu omedeto -- Japanese
- Mele Kalikimaka -- Hawaiian
- Suksun Wan Christmas -- Thai
- Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia -- Polish



ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIAS TO BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS

There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for Poinsettias. Every year we decorate the Church at Christmas and they are part of the decorations. We ask the members to sponsor the poinsettias by signing up and paying for them. After Christmas services on Christmas day you may then take them home with you to beautify your home. They are 6 inch plants and they are \$6.00 each. Either make your check out to the church, indicating it is for the poinsettias or give the money to Jan Bishop or Ellen Bitner. Please write paid by your name to indicate you have paid. Thank you in advance for your help.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING...

”Giving Sacrificially to God’s Work”

There is a special Christmas offering envelope in your 2011 box of envelopes. Christmas is the time when we think of the “gifts” we give to our friends and loved ones. Shouldn’t this also be true that this is a time when we give a “gift” to our Lord? So this “special “ envelope can be used for a “special “ gift!

This year, your Christmas offering will be divided equally in four areas:

1. Surgery for Amelia, the granddaughter of the Tom and Erika Burke, which will enable her to hear
2. Support for the youth program, including the youth lounge
3. Missions and Outreach -- local and worldwide
4. Benevolent Fund -- for those in need

Use your Christmas offering envelope or one found in the back of the pews, starting in December.

MEET AND GREET

January 18 at 6:30 pm. If you are new to the ministry of Redeemer by the Sea, come meet Pastor Augie and some other leaders from our church, have some coffee and dessert in a relaxing and informal setting. There will also be a brief time for Q&A. You can bring the whole family! Childcare is available with pre-registration

CHURCH DECORATING

Saturday Dec 10th

9:30-noon.

Need a lot of helping hands and especially “tall” men who can climb ladder(s)!!!!

e-mail bjclahr@cox.net if you plan to help beginning at 9:30 a.m. in order to determine if we need to get more helpers. The more help the faster we will finish.



NOMINATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

If anyone is interested in serving on the Church Council or other committees for 2012, please contact Church Denton. The annual nominating process is starting soon and Redeemer is always looking for those wishing to help serve the Lord in this way. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved with the direction and focus of ministry and have lots of fulfilling fellowship along the way. Any questions, please contact Church at 760-930-1916 or chuckdenton@yahoo.com

LIFE JOURNALS AND TITTER

Receive periodic “Tweets” from Pastor Augie regarding your daily life journal readings! Visit www.twitter.com/RevAugie and sign up to receive PA’s tweets on your computer or phone! To learn more about the *Life Journal* and how to use it, contact PA.

Pastor Augie.....Continued

twist of irony, these very items end up taking more of our enjoyment, adventure, time and money than they have given!

And so we've traded real purpose and significance for a sham, we've traded real relationships and love for cheap facsimiles, and most disturbing – we've traded real faith for consumerism. The Bible tells us that we cannot love both God and money – and yet we try. We don't realize how much the two can be in conflict. We may not profess faith in any pagan God, or worship Baal on the mountainside, but we pursue money as if it was our *functional* god. We trust in dollars (and the things it can buy) to provide us transcendence. We want our material things to elevate us above our circumstances. We want our cars, houses, clothes and vacations to offer us status, security, adventure and confidence. We ultimately look to these things to provide meaning in our lives and make us feel significant. And while they may do so for a brief moment, ultimately they all lose their luster and we eventually realize their imperfections and limitations. Our inevitable solution to this problem is to begin the hunt again – looking for that purchase that will satisfy. In the end, even products with a "satisfaction guarantee" ultimately leave us dissatisfied. They have to, because they are just things.

Things simply cannot provide what only God provides. You want security? Only God will withstand all the tests of time and endurance. You want significance? Only the things in life in which you partner with God will amount to anything that matters. You want confidence? Only finding your identity in God will allow you to feel comfortable with your body. You want adventure? Only following Jesus wherever He is leading you will truly challenge you and ultimately fulfill you! See – the only source of satisfaction for these spiritual hungers is Jesus. We go looking for them to be fulfilled at Christmas, and we hear the promises that they can be fulfilled. But we take a wrong turn when we head to the mall, department store or on-line shopping site to meet those needs. Truly the answer to our spiritual cravings *can* be found at Christmas, but it's not in a store that it is found. Instead, it's found in a manager. It's your Lord and Savior Jesus, born as a baby into a family of very little financial means, that ultimately offers everything your heart needs and wants!

This Christmas I would challenge you to **combat consumerism**. I'm not saying that you shouldn't shop... (our economy needs you –shop responsibly!) I'm just saying don't shop in stores for what can only be found in faith. Don't look to things to satisfy spiritual hungers that can only be satisfied by God.

Celebrating the CHRIST in Christmas,
Pastor Augie

ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES

"Everything I Needed to Know I Learned at Christmas"

- Dec. 4 Why Christ Had to Come
- Dec. 11 God Works Through Adverse Circumstances
- Dec. 18 There's a Heavenly Realm I Can't See
- Dec. 24 My Savior Was Born!

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Dec. 11 10:30 am Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 18 4:00 pm Christmas Choir Cantata
- Dec. 24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Worship
- 7:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25 9:30 am Christmas Day Worship

(Child care provided at all events)

ADVENT WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM WORSHIP

"Savior of the Nations Come"

- Nov. 30 Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People
- Dec. 7 Prepare the Royal Highway
- Dec. 14 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

"Savior of the Nations Come"

This series of sermons moves through the first eleven verses of Isaiah 40 unpacking and exploring its Messianic themes. Each message looks at a different Advent Hymn. We'll hear of the Lord's Comfort for Israel through Jesus Christ, the call to prepare for Jesus by John the Baptist, and the Hope of God With us as Jesus enters our world as an infant - fully man and yet fully God.

"Everything I Needed to Know I Learned at Christmas"

Have you heard the saying, "Everything I needed to know I learned in Kindergarten?" There's some truth in that simple saying. Much the same could be said about Christmas. We learn a lot about the foundations of our faith at Christmas time. The story of Christmas explains why Christ had to come in the first place and it shows how God works despite our external environment. The angels at Christmas time revealed to us that there is more than meets the eye and they also proclaimed that what was happening at Christmas really was the salvation of all mankind in the person of Jesus our Savior. We'll discuss this and more this Advent Season at Redeemer. Join us!



**Redeemer by the Sea Lutheran Church
Preschool & Kindergarten LCMS**

6600 Black Rail Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011



**DECEMBER 2011
REFLECTIONS**

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Rachelle Iadicicco 760-431-8990

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om@redeemerbythesea.org

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Choir Director (Traditional)
Worship Singers & Band Coordinator:

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Kathy Exqueda 760 434-7820

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Sunday Worship Services

8:30 am Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

Sunday Classes

10:00 am Adult & Youth Bible Studies, Sunday School

www.redeemerbythesea.org